

DI-MFR

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24 May 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for HPSCI on Arms Control Issues

1. On 24 May 1984, CIA participated with the State Department, ACDA, and the Defense Department in a briefing on arms control monitoring and verification for HPSCI.

Present from the Committee were:

Dave McCurdy (D., OK), presiding
Albert Gore (D., TN)
Louis Stokes (D., OH)
Anthony Bielsenson (D., CA).

HPSCI staff members attending were Tom Latimer, Leon Fuerth, Marty Faga and Mike O'Neil.

The witnesses included:

Manfred Eimer
Assistant Director,
Bureau of Verification and Intelligence
ACDA

Richard Perle
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for International Security Policy

RADM Jonathan Howe
Director
Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs
Department of State

Chief, Arms Control Intelligence Staff
Deputy Directorate for Intelligence
CIA

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A transcript was taken.

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2. The briefing was organized as a continuation of briefings given by CIA/ACIS on 24 and 25 April 1984 on US arms control monitoring capabilities. State, ACDA, and DoD were unable to attend those sessions. RADM Howe began the briefing with a statement underlining the need to consider each aspect of arms control separately rather than to consider it a single problem. This led to a discussion of the mechanics of the verification function in the Executive Branch, including the composition of membership and decision-making process. There was also discussion of various Soviet weapons systems and the difficulty of monitoring Soviet testing and deployment of certain weapons. The bottom line is whether US national interest is fostered by arms control talks or agreements when Soviet behavior cannot be monitored by the US with certainty. [redacted]

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3. The future for arms control efforts was considered in a generally pessimistic light by the briefers. They indicated that the Soviets do not seem interested in pursuing limitation talks at this time. Moreover the intelligence community sees increasing difficulty in performing its monitoring responsibility due to Soviet deception and concealment efforts. At the same time, there is sentiment in Congress that the verification problem is being used as an excuse by the Administration to forestall arms control talks. [redacted]

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4. The briefing ended with a strong note of appreciation by Rep. McCurdy. There were no follow-up requests, but Mr. McCurdy indicated he anticipated continuing consultations with the intelligence community on arms control matters. [redacted]

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Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

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